


The Briefer Process
Rev. Mark R. Richards, JCL


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The Briefer Process

- New process introduced by Pope Francis
- Requires cooperation of Petitioner and Respondent, who must ordinarily present the case together, or at least with the explicit consent of the Respondent
- Requires irrefutable proof up front (immediately manifest)
- Practical Examples ...


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The Briefer Process

- Contact Fr. Mark directly to discuss the situation *prior to* submitting case:
 - Are both parties going to cooperate?
 - What are the proposed grounds that are immediately manifest?
 - What is the irrefutable proof that will be presented?


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The Briefer Process

- If accepted, the Judicial Vicar
 - Names Instructor and Assessor
 - Cites Parties, Defender of the Bond, and Witnesses


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The Briefer Process

- The Instructor:
 - Collects proofs in a single session
 - Gives Defender of the Bond and Advocates 15 days to present observations


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The Briefer Process

- The Diocesan Bishop:
 - Consults with the Instructor and Assessor
 - Reviews observations of Defender of the Bond and Advocates
 - If moral certitude is reached, he declares the marriage invalid
 - If not, the case reverts to the Ordinary Process


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Appeal of the Briefer Process

- Goes to Metropolitan Archbishop of San Francisco
- Given the nature of the case, such appeals should be rare to non-existent.

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The Briefer Process



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